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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

TETSUYA FUKUNAGA

: EXAMINER: MEDINA SANABRIA, M.

SERIAL NO: 09/701,585

:

FILED: JANUARY 2, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1754

FOR: CATALYST AND PROCESS
FOR REFORMING HYDROCARBON

AMENDMENT & REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendment and remarks. Further, Applicants submit herewith, an executed 132 Declaration demonstrating the superior qualities of the claimed invention in support of the remarks below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 7, with the following paragraph.

--An autothermal reforming process of natural gas using a fixed-bed reactor is illustrated in Fig. 1. The same process can be used for autothermal reforming of naptha or LPG. First, natural gas is desulfurized in a desulfurization unit 10, to thereby remove sulfur. The feedstock is typically hydrodesulfurized in the desulfurization unit 10, and the produced

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